

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

MBFR-03 ACDA-19 IO-12 SAJ-01 GAC-01 NIC-01 EB-11

SCI-06 CU-04 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 FAA-00 EPA-04

CEQ-02 RSR-01 /164 W

----- 105265

R 182214 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5161

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, GW

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG

REF BONN 7046

SUMMARY: BREZHNEV ARRIVED IN BONN MAY 18 FOR A FOUR- DAY  
WORKING VISIT. THE ARRIVAL CEREMONIES AT THE AIRPORT  
INCOUDING BOTH LEADERS' S SPEECHES, WERE SOMEWHAT DULL.  
ACCORDING TO ONE RELIABLE SOURCE, THE PROPOSED JOINT  
DECLARATION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO EMERGE FROM THE  
VISIT FOCUSES HEAVILY ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION  
END SUMMARY.

1. BREZHNEV ARRIVIED IN BONN SAFELY AND AT  
THE APPOINTED TIME (11 AM LOCAL), MAY 18 LOOKING FIT AND  
RELAXED. BRANDT, IN GREETING HIM APPEARED GENERALLY IN  
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GOOD FORM, ALTHOUGH THE AIR OF DIGNITY HE ASSUMED ONCE

THE GENERAL SECRETARY HAD STEPPED OUT OF THE PLANE BORDERED ON STIFFNESS. UNREMARKABLE ARRIVAL STATEMENTS BY BOTH MEN ( SEE PARA 5 BELOW) INITIATED A VISIT WHICH AS WE SEE IT NOW WILL GIVE BREZHNEV RELATIVELY LITTLE PUBLIC EXPOSURE, CONCENTRATE ON WORKING CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN HIM AND BRANDT, AND PLACE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. THE TWO DIES ARE PREPARING A JOINT DECLARATION TO BE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT. WE UNDERSTAND FROM A NORMALLY RELABLE SOURCE WHO HAS SEEN THE JOINT DRAFT IN ITS CURRENT STAGE THAT IT EMPHASIZES ECONOMIC MATTERS TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT ALMOST LOOKS MORE LIKE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS THAN A JOINT DECLARATION OF TWO STATES. THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE ASPECT OF THE VISIT WHICH THE SOVIETS WISH TO EMPHASIZE AND ON WHICH SOME FAIRLY CONCRETE STATEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITHOUT RAISING THE DIFFICULT POLITICAL QUESTIONS ON WHICH FRG AND USSR VIEWS CONTINUE TO DIFFER.

3. NOW THAT AGREEMENT HAS FINALLY BEEN REACHED ON A PROCEDURE FOR EXTENDING THE SCIENTIFIC/ TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT TO BERLIN ( SEPTEL) IT APPEARS THAT FOUR AGREEMENTS WILL BE SIGNED WHILE BREZHNEV IS HERE:

- ( A) CULTURAL EXCHANGE
- ( B) INDUSTRIAL, ECONOMIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
- ( C) SCIENTIFIC/ TECHNOLOGICAL
- ( D) SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL TO CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT ( SECOND ROUTE PLAN).

THE SIGNING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON SATURDAY, MAY 19, BRANDT AND BREZHNEV WILL ATTEND, BUT THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS WILL SIGN.

4. THE DIFFERENCES OVER THE AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REMAIN TO BE OVERCOME, SO THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL APPARENTLY NOT PLAY A PART IN THE VISIT. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, EXTENSION TO BERLIN REMAINS THE PROBLEM-- A PARTICULARLY TICKLISH ONE IN THIS CASE SINCE VITAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO BE PROTECTED, IN BERLIN AS ELSEWHERE, ARE AIR AND WATERWAYS.

5. IN THEIR ARRIVAL STATEMENTS AT COLOGNE- BONN AIRPORT, BOTH BRANDT AND BREZHNEV ALLUDED BRIEFLY TO THE TROUBLED BACKGROUND OF FRG- USSR RELATIONS (" WE HAVE HAD TO COME A LONG WAY") AND SINGLED OUT THE TREATY OF AUGUST 12, 1970, AS A MILESTONE IN THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING THEM. BRANDT REFERRED TO HIS VISIT WITH

BREZHNEV AT OREANDS IN 1971, SAYING THAT THE TWO HAD  
BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED AS A RESULT OF THE LONG AND  
FRANK CONVERSATIONS HELD THERE AND ADDING THAT THEY  
WOULD NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE.  
BREZHNEV COMMENTED THAT IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO VISIT  
A FOREIGN COUNTRY AND EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS, BUT THAT  
THE SATISFACTION IS PARTICULARLY GREAT WHEN THE VISIT  
PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY " FOR THE SOLUTION OF

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R 182214 Z MAY 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5162  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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SIGNIFICANT TASKS."

6. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ON BALANCE THE PUBLIC  
REACTION TO THE VISIT IS FAVORABLE ALTHOUGH NOT  
ENTHUSIASTIC. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE  
THE RESULTS OF AN ALLENSBACH POLL CONDUCTED BETWEEN  
MAY 1-4. OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, 51 PERCENT

THOUGHT THE VISIT WOULD BE " GOOD AND USEFUL;" 28  
PERCENT THOUGHT IT WOULD " NOT PRODUCE ANYTHING FURTHER;"  
3 PERCENT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE " RATHER HARMFUL;" 10  
PERCENT HAD " NO OPINION;" AND 8 PERCENT HAD " NOT  
HEARD ABOUT THE BREZHNEV VISIT." IT IS INTERESTING, AND  
ALSO A BIT CONFUSING, TO COMPARE THESE PERCENTAGE  
RESPONSES WITH THE ANSWERS TO ANOTHER QUESTION PUT IN  
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THE SAME POLL: " WHO IN YOUR OPINION WILL BENEFIT MORE  
ALL IN ALL FROM AN IMPROVED GERMAN- SOVIET RELATIONSHIP  
- THE SOVIET UNION OR THE FRG? THE REPLIES WERE :  
SOVIET UNION - 45 PERCENT; BOTH EQUALLY - 31 PERCENT;  
FRG - 9 PERCENT; UNABLE TO SAY - 15 PERCENT.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TAKING  
PAINS TO PROTRAY THE BREZHNEV VISIT AS A NORMAL RESULT  
OF ITS POLICIES OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS, EVEN THE CASUAL  
OBSERVER COULD NOT HELP BUT NOTICE THE ELECTRICITY IN  
THE BONN AIR AS BREZHNEV ARRIVED THIS MORNING. AS  
NOTED TO US BY AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST EARLIER TODAY,  
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE MADE A  
PEACEFUL FORAY TO THE RHINE SINCE 1814. IN SUM, THERE  
IS A GENERAL AWARENESS OF THE UNIQUE EVENT WHICH IS  
BEING NOW WITNESSED HERE.

8. THERE WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THE  
ARTILLERY BATTERY WAS ALERT FOR THE ORDER TO DELIVER  
THE 21- GUN SALUTE AS BREZHNEV ARRIVED THIS MORNING,  
THIS PART OF THE PROGRAM WAS CALLED OFF, APPARENTLY AT  
SOVIET INITIATIVE, ONLY HOURS BEFORE HE ARRIVED. THE  
CORRECT EXPLANATION MAY BE THAT IT WAS DECIDED SUCH  
HONORS SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR A CHIEF OF STATE. BUT  
AGAIN, IN THE ATMOSPHERE PERVADING HERE TODAY, IT IS  
HARD NOT TO BELIEVE THE COMMENT OF ONE GERMAN  
JOURNALIST WHO SAID, " WE HAVE SHOT ENOUGH CANNONS AT  
EACH OTHER FOR THE TIME BEING."

9. MEMBERS OF THIS EMBASSY COULD ALSO NOT HELP BUT  
NOTICE THE IRONY OF THE FACT THAT THE HISTORIC OLD HOTEL  
PETERSBERG, WHICH ONCE HOUSED CHAMBERLAIN WHILE HE WAS  
IN GODESBERG FOR TALKS WITH HITLER AND LATER WAS THE  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ALLIED HIGH COMMISSIONERS FOR  
GERMANY, IS TODAY BEDECKED WITH SOVIET FLAGS, WAVING  
FOR ALL TO SEE HIGH OVER THE RHINE. BREZHNEV HIMSELF  
SEEMED TO SENSE THE HISTORY OF THE OCCASION AS HE STOOD  
AT THE AIRPORT FOR TODAY' S WELCOMING CEREMONIES. HE  
SEEMED TO STAND JUST A BIT MORE ERECT AS THE OLD GERMAN  
NATIONAL ANTHEM CAME TO AN END AND AS HE AND THE  
GERMAN CHANCELLOR STRODE OFF TO REVIEW THE HONOR GUARD  
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OF GERMAN ARMY TROOPS, CERTAINLY THE FIRST SOVIET  
LEADER TO RECEIVE SUCH HONORS IN A VERY LONG TIME, IF  
EVER.

HILLENBRAND

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUR  
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